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SUBJECT: Guangxi: Trafficking on the Vietnam Border

REF: A) Guangzhou 208

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¶1. (U) SUMMARY and COMMENT: Trafficking of sex workers and spouses from Vietnam continues but cooperation between the Vietnam diplomats and Chinese authorities is good, according to Nanning-based Vietnam Consulate General. A China-announced repatriation center for Vietnamese trafficked victims, which had earlier been discussed in PRC newspapers as a symbol of assistance to trafficked individuals, apparently does not exist. END SUMMARY and COMMENT.

Trafficking between Vietnam and China

¶2. (U) In a late May meeting with the Consul General in Guangxi's capital, Nanning, Vietnamese Consul General Tran Dui Hai commented that trafficking is a complex problem found at any border. During the meeting, a follow-up to a February meeting with the Vietnam Consulate General in Guangzhou (reftel), Tran said that cooperation between his office and Chinese authorities was excellent. Vietnam does not view trafficked persons as criminals but assists victims, once identified as Vietnamese citizens, in returning to their families, according to Tran. Surprisingly, though the Chinese have previously cited the 2005 creation of a Repatriation Center for trafficked Vietnamese in Guangxi as an example of border cooperation, Tran said no such center exists. (This likely explains why an earlier request to visit the center was rejected by the Guangxi Public Security Bureau (PSB).)

¶3. (U) Tran said that when the PSB contacts the Consulate regarding a potential victim, the Consulate confirms the person is a Vietnamese national. That process may take from one to several months. Afterwards, the PSB will issue an exit permit (tong xing zheng) to the person to depart China and the Nanning Consulate will assist the person in returning to Vietnam by providing bus fare if needed. The PSB will often provide support victims during the waiting period until they are confirmed as Vietnamese nationals. Tran noted that the Women's Federation of China was active on the border and could help victims.

¶4. (U) Tran said that in 2006, the PSB brought 250 cases to his attention by the PSB, of which 150 were repatriated to Vietnam. The remainder, many of whom are Vietnamese, are still in prison in China for unspecified criminal activities. Most trafficked victims are brought to China for marriage or the sex trade, though this problem was greater in Kunming, Yunnan, than in Nanning, according to Tran. Most victims remain in border areas, though some have gone to central and northern China.

¶5. (U) Tran commented that Chinese are trafficked or smuggled to third countries via Vietnam, with traffickers using false U.S. and Hong Kong passports. Many are children, aged three-to-five years old; they tend to be sent to France based on a Hong Kong passport, which had been used to obtain a French visa. Some Chinese women use false U.S. passports to travel to the EU.

¶6. (U) Tran noted that Guangxi had 2,000 Vietnamese students, mostly in Nanning (1400) and Guilin (600), and 150 long-term Vietnamese residents. He was unable to cite statistics on numbers of business person, farmers, or border traders coming to Guangxi.

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